

CLAXTON OPPOSES WHITFIELD PLAN

Debate Between Educators Over Revolutionizing Methods of Teaching.

DENMARK'S MODEL SCHOOLS

Conference on Woman's Education Ends With Discussions of Rural Problems.

Opposition to the revolutionary Whitfield plan of education, which would upset the methods of teaching pursued through all the ages, was voiced yesterday afternoon before the Conference for the Education of Women in the Country by Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education. He evidently attended the conference for the purpose of expressing his opinion, which gave a new tone to the meeting and a balance to the judgment of its members.

Admitting that much of the matter taught in the public schools is utterly useless in its application to real life, Dr. Claxton said that definite cultural training should by no means be abandoned. There is plenty of time, he said, to teach it all. He gave as the model the high schools of Denmark.

Stands By His Guns. Dr. H. L. Whitfield, president of the State Normal School for Women in Mississippi, at Columbus, whose report coming from the head of the State Normal colleges was under consideration, did not abandon the fight. He made the concluding address of the conference, in which he reiterated his statement that education for actual living is the essential basis for true culture.

"I do not propose," Dr. Claxton, he said, "addressing his remarks mainly to that distinguished official, to drive grammar and arithmetic from our schools, but I do propose that they shall be taught with a view to use in after life."

"For ten years I was State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Mississippi. When I saw that most people were sickly, and found that \$2,000,000 of values were wasted in the country each year because people were not well; when I found that men and women had no conception of the real duties of citizenship, nor of the essentials of home-making, of living, when they left the public schools, I felt that something was wrong with our system of education. I would have health taught in the schools. I would have home-making and home-making taught, instead of having education consisting of handing down from generation to generation packages of grammar and arithmetic, sealed, so that nobody knows what's inside."

"I have seen 700 girls at a library, throwing themselves against books and trying to comprehend them. True culture is a knowledge of how to live, the best to be got out of living, and the best to be put into it. I hate and denounce the term 'industrial education' as though it were something for the poor people, while real education is reserved for those a little more intelligent, a little higher up in the scale. It ought to be and is all pure education, and we need to know the meaning of the word."

Dr. Claxton's Reply. Plenty of things are taught in the public schools of today, and have always been taught, said Dr. Claxton. In arranging the Whitfield plan, that are of no value. For instance, only a few years ago, and perhaps to-day, arithmetics teach compound partnerships, whereas there has been no such thing among business men, or anywhere else for 250 years. So with many other things, which the student has forced into his brain, to no purpose.

But important as are the questions of home-making and of lightening the burden of farm life, and of being healthy, these things can now be taught without abandoning the essentials of cultural training, which tell how to think and how to enjoy the things of life, which look to things above feeding and lightening labor.

In Denmark the schools reach the highest known standard of training for real citizenship, in the opinion of Dr. Claxton. The most important feature there is instruction in Danish literature, and the next is in Danish history. The children learn what their country is and what it has done and the place it occupies in the world. With almost no natural resources, it is one of the

Safety

It should be a source of comfort to you to know that the water you drink is SAFE. Every precaution for sanitary handling is taken at our spring and bottling house that

Broad Rock Water

may reach YOU

Wonderfully Pure

richest countries on earth, and the students learn patriotism and natural pride in the public schools. The average American student, he said, gets 5,000 hours of instruction. If he went to school three hours a day 300 days a year for thirteen years, as he ought to, he would get 11,000 hours, or enough to learn culture and practical things, too.

Dr. Whitfield did not realize his cherished intention of having a vote taken on the proposition, as the crowd broke up at once when the program was concluded, but he will have the satisfaction of having his plan published in the proceedings of the conference, and he hopes it will be the beginning of a revolution in the school system of the country.

President Joe Cook, of the State Normal School at Hattiesburg, Miss., discussing the drudgery of women on the farm, dealt with but one subject—water. He told how and for what price water with all conveniences can be put in every country home. All sorts of questions were fired at him, and he was ready with answers. As to the cost, which was dreaded by most, one speaker said that with half the energy now expended by women in carrying and handling water, she could pay in two years for the entire water system by raising potatoes on a small patch of ground.

The world knows now that the poor don't have to starve, said Professor Benjamin R. Andrews, of the Teachers' College of Columbia University. Food values can be learned so that everybody can live with slight cost, as far as the table is concerned. He advocated a better division of the family earnings, so that women may have money of their own to spend. This was greeted with unanimous applause from the feminine portion of the audience. The men sat glumly, perhaps wishing that there were really some division of funds so that they could get part.

Miss Isabel Ely Lord, of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, talked about home economics. The saving of time by management was stressed by her, and she remarked that nowadays women do not spend a moment longer in dressing than is absolutely necessary—which caused another audible smile. Nutrition investigations were discussed by Dr. C. P. Langworthy, of the United States Department of Agriculture; social life in the country for women by Mrs. Mary C. Roark, of the State Normal School at Richmond, Ky., and the awakening of farm women by Mrs. W. N. Hunt, of the Star of the Progressive Farmer, of Raleigh, N. C.

PREACHERS CONFER

Discuss Duties of Church in Social and Intellectual Life.

The country preachers of Virginia, who gathered in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium yesterday afternoon, listened to many pertinent suggestions as to the duty of the country church in the social, intellectual and physical welfare of its members.

The principal address was by Rev. R. H. Pitt, D. D., of Richmond, who spoke on "What the Church Can Do to Stimulate Reading and Intellectual Life in General." He dwelt upon the value of a good church library, which should contain books that teach piety only indirectly.

That the Church Can Do to Develop an Interest in Elevating Social Life" was the subject of an address by Rev. B. M. Beckham. He pointed out that the pastor of the church occupies a position of the highest leadership in the social life of a community.

Weatherford-Patterson. South Boston, Va., April 18.—On Tuesday night at 7:30 o'clock, Miss Minnie Patterson and John A. Weatherford, both of this place, were quietly married.

DOWN HOMERS PAY HONOR TO DR. PAGE

North Carolina Conference Delegates Give Luncheon to New Ambassador.

North Carolina delegates to the Conference for Education in the South united yesterday in giving a complimentary luncheon to Dr. Walter H. Page, presiding officer of the conference just closed, in recognition of the distinguished honor conferred upon the Old North State by the appointment of one of its sons to the ambassadorship at the court of St. James.

General Julian S. Carr, of Durham, presided as toastmaster, and presented as the first speaker J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in North Carolina, who spoke to the toast, "What Our Down Home Folks Think About It." President W. W. Moore, of the Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, a former North Carolinian, followed with a talk on the subject, "What the Farthings Think About It."

Speeches were made also by Colonel N. A. Blair, of Winston-Salem; General Julian S. Carr, of Durham; Congressman Small, of North Carolina; Dr. Page and others. The new ambassador expressed his appreciation of the honor conferred upon him by President Wilson, and said that he was going to London to do the best that he could.

The luncheon was given in the palm room of the Jefferson Hotel at 1 o'clock, and was attended, in addition to those mentioned, by Colonel Benjamin Cameron, of Staunton; J. L. Borden, of Goldsboro; President J. J. Foust, of the State Normal School at Greensboro; President D. H. Hill, of the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College, Raleigh; Ralph Page, son of the ambassador, of Southern Pines; President Ramsey, of the Peace Institute, Raleigh; Dr. Charles Lee Smith, of Raleigh; R. H. Wright, of Greenville; James R. Green, of Winston-Salem; Dr. N. H. Walker, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Harry Howell, of Raleigh, and L. C. Brogden, of Raleigh.

WHAT CONFERENCE HAS ATTAINED

Commissioner Claxton Shows Growth—Educational Ideals South Must Strive For.

How the Southern Educational Conference has grown in twelve years and some of the things that it has accomplished were told by United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton in an address yesterday afternoon. He said that from a collection of teachers discussing the technical details of their profession it has grown into a large, diversified body, capable of considering education in a statesmanlike way and in its relation to the state. He asserted that the Southern Educational Board, the General Educational Board, the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission and many other valuable institutions have sprung directly from this conference.

Mr. Claxton spoke on the ideals of education which the Southern States should strive to realize. The democratic ideal of education, he said, is to make it possible for each child, regardless of color, sex or position, to be able to get all of the education that it has a capacity for.

As practical expedients to this end he urged that the nine-month term be made the rule everywhere; that high schools be more generally provided, in order that all children may have education in the formative adolescent period, and that the work be so arranged that it can be adapted to the child, instead of being adapted in advance to the image of a child, and that vocational training be introduced, so that education may really fit the child for life.

With regard to the nine months' term he showed that the Southern States are greatly behind the times. Very few of them have more than 130 days of school in the country schools, while in the North nearly all have over 170 days of school per year.

The standard for teachers in the country must be raised, he said, because a country teacher must be much more efficient than the city teacher, who is merely part of an efficient organization.

He suggested a plan for the betterment of rural education, whereby the teacher is to be provided with a home at the school and with a tract of land, which he is to cultivate as a model farm and for his own support. In this way, he pointed out, the school would be in a manner self-supporting, and the teacher more apt to stay at his post.

CONFERENCE NOTES

Five hundred of the visitors to the Conference for Education in the South will join the trip down James River to-day, tendered by the Old Dominion Steamship Company, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Mrs. Louise J. Barnard, and the Richmond Business Men's Committee, headed by Thomas P. Bryan—the latter body furnishing the lunch. The boat, the Smithfield, leaves the Old Dominion wharf at 7:45 o'clock this morning, and will stop at Jamestown Island at 1 o'clock, where one hour will be spent. The arrival at Newport News will be at 4:45 o'clock, and the special train over the Chesapeake and Ohio will leave at 5:30 o'clock, following the regular train, and arriving in Richmond at 6:40. Refreshments on the boat will be served at 11:30 o'clock, so as to be finished before arrival at the cradle of American civilization. Delegates who may

desire, may take the boat at the Newport News wharf for Norfolk.

There are others who prefer to visit Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, where they have been invited. These will leave the city at 9 o'clock this morning over the Chesapeake and Ohio, and may return at 6:30 o'clock this evening.

In all, about 2,400 persons registered at the various conference offices during the meeting.

After the closing meeting last night, an address on hookworm and rural sanitation work in Virginia, with illustrations, was given in John Marshall High School by Dr. Allen W. Freeman, Assistant State Health Commissioner. The exhibit will be dismantled to-day and returned to their respective owners, all over the South. They have been visited by thousands during the week.

BUILDING RURAL LIFE IS NATION'S GREAT PROBLEM

(Continued From First Page.)

group seems to be a leader. The comprehensiveness of the program is beyond all precedent in my experience and observation. It is no haphazard affair, but goes in ordered procession through all the allied subjects.

The Nation's Problem. "The largest problem that faces American civilization to-day lies in building up its country life. No matter what attitude some of us may have toward the rural life of the United States, we are obliged to come to this. We have just passed through a period of organization of the machinery of the modern world—making the city and the railroad—and the country has been left out. Now we must build it up, and that is the errand that brings us here. We all know that in the coming centuries, as in the past, the character and the vision of American life will come from the soil.

"I marvel, therefore, at the wisdom with which the schedule of our meetings was laid out. "In our early days the characteristic of the people of the United States was individualism. Great as this was for the cause of democracy, it rested upon a false economic basis. A man's home cannot be his castle, for he is mutually linked as his brothers' keeper, whether he will or no. A larger vision and a larger liberty and a larger opportunity now comes on us as the task for our working hours. We must organize in the country. "Another thing, and one that must have impressed a stranger from a different land, suddenly dropped among us, is the selfishness with which everything has been done and discussed. I defy any one to find so many intelligent, self-supporting men and women anywhere, to all for three days discussing problems for the good of all, never once admitting the exploitation of anybody for any purpose.

Most Thrilling Chapter. "The historian of the progress of democracy could not write a more thrilling chapter than the events of the past ten or fifteen years, taking as the cue the note of the Conference for Education in the South. We began with the school and the child, and we end with them, of course, but every step has been toward a widening Democratic ideal—nothing less—to see how we could teach one another. Dr. Knapp let a flood of light on all this problem. I am sure, but that he was the greatest schoolmaster of the age.

"So our discussions have come regularly, with no eccentricities, but with a broadening application of all that cooperation means. To fill the soil, to train the children, to make the home, a work of continuous human service, I count as one of the greatest privileges that can fall to the lot of man. We have worked on a program to bring to pass the dream of the fathers, that our republic shall be and remain the hope of the world.

"We thought, and with infinite gratitude from the very bottom of my heart to every one of you, with a growing hope, I declare the sixteenth Conference for Education in the South adjourned.

Need County Leaders. The county superintendent is the keynote of effective schools for the farming population, said J. E. Swearingin, Superintendent of Education of South Carolina, in the first speaker of the evening. The work cannot be satisfactorily done until the office of the county superintendent is dignified and strengthened in his opinion. He said temporary teachers, who go into the profession for a few months or a year or two, are disastrous to the cause of education.

K. Tate, supervisor of rural schools of South Carolina, said his State was the smallest, poorest most and most unobtrusive of the sisterhood in the South, at which the audience smiled. The rural school problem there, he said, was being worked out through a system of taxation which pays a bonus for good schools. The Legislature has done much and local efforts have been stimulated. Local officials have been helped by the publication of schoolhouse plans. Salaries have been increased, and county demonstration agents have helped.

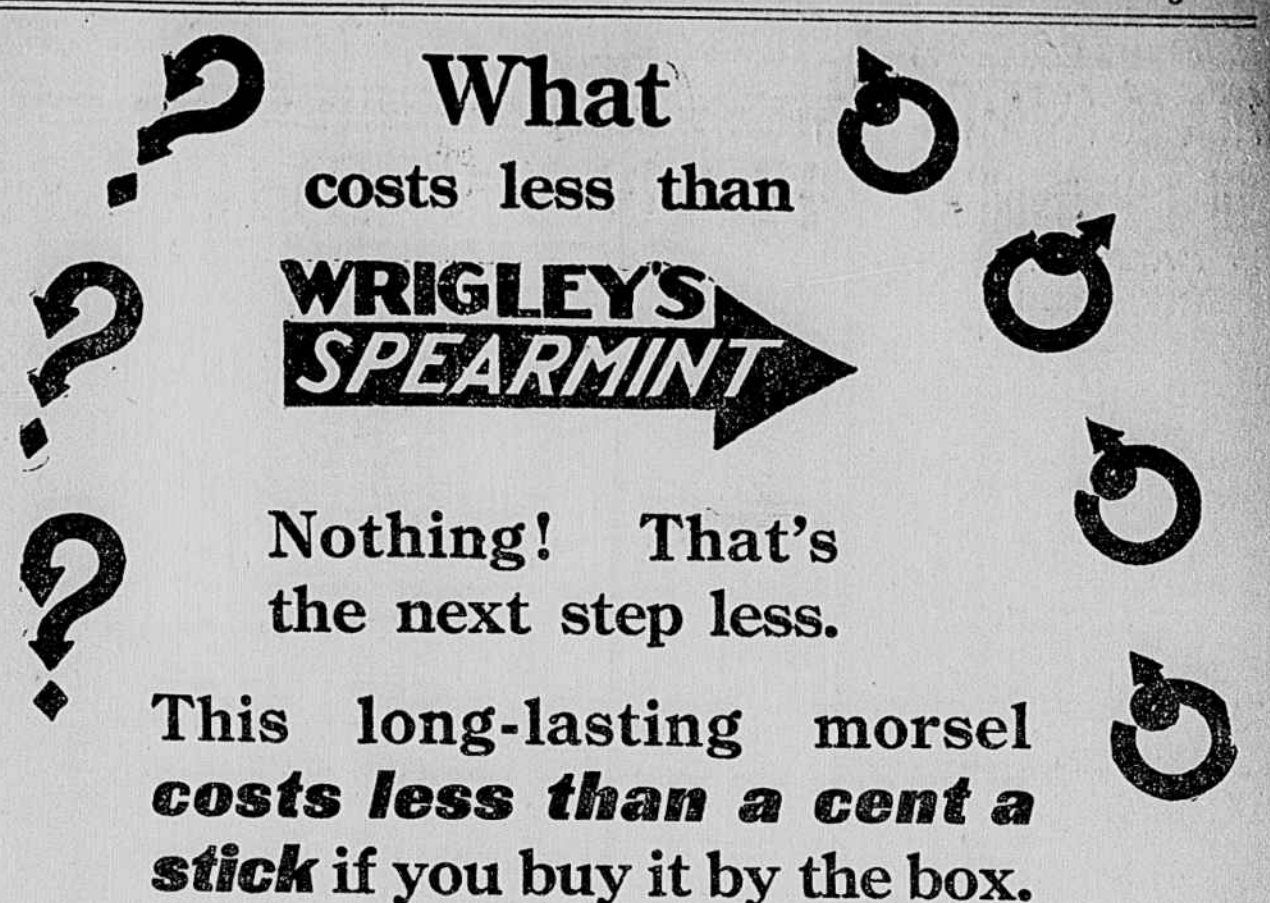
Short Speeches. Introducing T. J. Coates, State Supervisor of Kentucky, Dr. Page said: "In spite of the fact that we are meeting in Richmond, in the oratorical zone, we have shown here that a man can tell more in ten minutes about what he is going to do than he could in two hours and forty minutes about what he is going to do." This referred to the bell which rang every speaker down at the end of his ten minutes, even in the middle of sentences.

Mr. Coates did not think greater yields the only desirable end, greater raising of more corn has sometimes merely made the man the greater hog. Besides, prosperity does not always keep proportion to the farm, for under these circumstances many of them move to town.

High school work in North Carolina and in Alabama was discussed by N. W. Walker and S. Thomas, the respective professors of secondary education in the universities of these States.

War on Hookworm. The story of the fight against hookworm in the South was told by Dr. Welford Rose, secretary of the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, and Dr. J. A. Ferrell, the State agent in North Carolina. It was stated that about 50 per cent of those examined have been found infected—however, these investigations have been conducted in those localities previously supposed to contain the greatest amount of infection. The problem was a local one, but exists in all tropical and semi-tropical lands—in India, Egypt, in Central and South America, even in the mines of Europe.

The resolutions as reported by the committee review briefly the history of the conference, ending by acknowledging the kindness shown by the homes, colleges, Christian associations, churches, commercial bodies, school officials, hotels, press and railroads of Richmond.



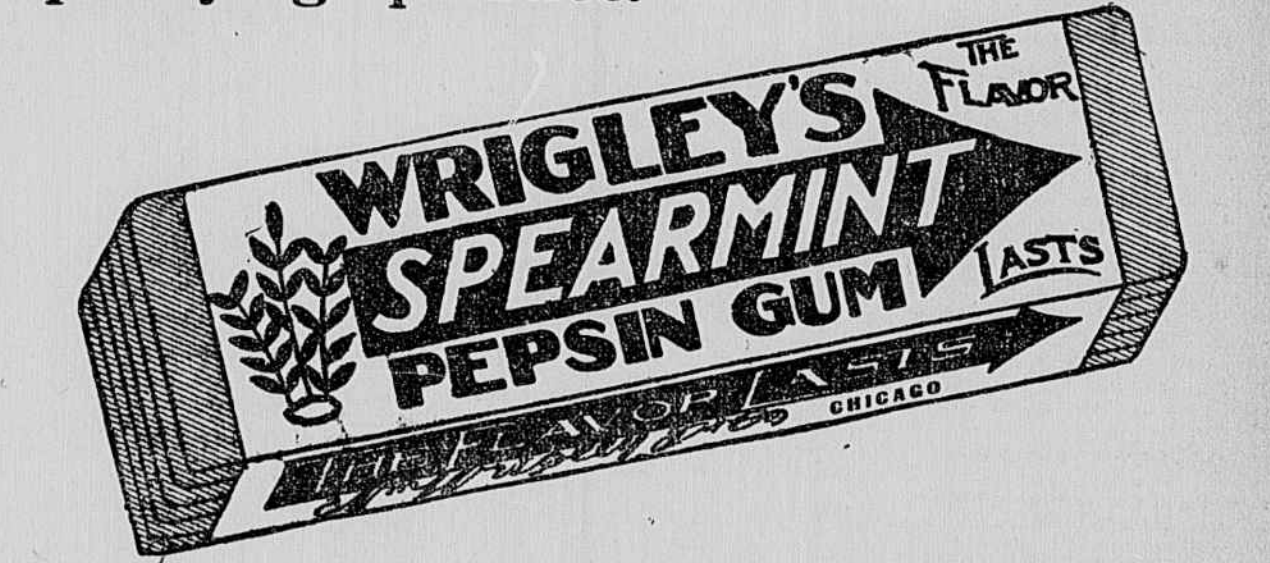
What costs less than

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT

Nothing! That's the next step less.

This long-lasting morsel costs less than a cent a stick if you buy it by the box.

Its pleasure and benefit is making it a national pastime. Bright teeth, keen appetites, improved digestions, are increasing. Smokers bless its breath-purifying qualities.



BUY IT BY THE BOX

It costs less—of any dealer—and stays fresh until used.

Look for the spear Avoid imitations TAX CONFERENCE FOR STATE COMMISSIONERS

Declares Nonpartisan State Board of Assessment to Be Essential to Any Scheme of Reform. Refers to Virginia.

Summing up in concrete form the sense of the two meetings held in Richmond in connection with the Conference for Education in the South, the Conference on Taxation yesterday afternoon adopted unanimously the following resolution:

"Resolved, That where conditions are such as to insure the selection of efficient and nonpartisan members, a permanent State tax commissioner or commission, with ample powers for supervising and equalizing assessments, is the first essential step towards efficient and equitable taxation, and that such commissioner or commission is necessary whether a program of separation of State and local revenues be followed or not."

The resolution was offered by T. S. Adams, State Tax Commissioner, of Wisconsin, at the conclusion of the final session, devoted to an examination of the tax reform movement in the South, during which addresses were made by J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina; Professor Charles Lee Raper, dean of the Graduate School of the University of North Carolina, and Superintendent Sharkey, of the Department of Public Instruction of West Virginia. Impromptu talks were made by several members of the conference.

Want State Associations. Just before adjournment, under a resolution offered by Henry Varden, of Frederickburg, the conference went on record as favoring the organization of a State tax association in every State, composed of representatives from the various tax-paying districts, to meet in conference to consider the problem of taxation and to bring about a more equitable distribution of the tax burden.

Editor W. A. Land, of the Blackstone Courier, presented a resolution calling upon the next General Assembly of Virginia to provide by legislative enactment for a nonpartisan State tax commission with ample powers to put into practice a reform in the methods of assessing and collecting taxes in this State. The conference declined to ratify it on the ground that it could legitimately concern itself only with reforms of general application in the South, and Lieutenant Governor Elyson, who presided, ruled that the resolution was out of order. The final session was held in the House of Delegates, at the State Capitol, and attracted a good attendance. Before adjourning, the conference passed resolutions extending its thanks to the speakers who had addressed it and to the newspapers of the city of

Richmond for their reports of the sessions.

Lauds The Times-Dispatch. Allan C. Girdwood, of Baltimore, secretary of the special commission appointed by the Governor of Maryland to report to the Legislature of 1914 on the tax situation in that State, speaking in the open session which followed the final address, reported the situation in his State to be analogous to that in Virginia. Indifference and apathy on the part of the electorate, he said, was responsible for the failure to secure needed tax reforms in Maryland.

"We have the same apathy to fight in Virginia," said Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, former tax commissioner of this State. "We are beginning to arouse the electorate to a sense of their duty. In this work we are being aided nobly by the press of Virginia. If the Baltimore Sun would do for Maryland what The Times-Dispatch has done and is doing for Virginia in this respect, it could do much in helping to bring about the reforms you need."

Mr. Girdwood painted a dark picture of the Maryland situation. The city of Baltimore, he said, was being saddled by the rural districts with more than its share of the State burden, and has so far been unable to find relief. Measures looking to an equalization of the taxes have been repeatedly downed in the Maryland Legislature, he said, by the representation from the counties whose taxes would thereby be increased.

Dr. Freeman thought that Virginia cities are being similarly unjustly burdened, and that reform will follow only when the members from the rural districts are educated to the point of appreciating the injustice of the present system.

West Virginia Leads. West Virginia, according to Professor Raper, who discussed the problem of taxation now being worked out in the South, leads the Southern States in the matter of equitable assessment and collection of taxes. It is the only State in the South, he said, in which the taxes have been repeatedly downed in the Maryland Legislature, he said, by the representation from the counties whose taxes would thereby be increased.

In the other Southern States, said Professor Raper, the situation is, except in two or three commonwealths, anything but encouraging. Virginia, he thought, was in a fair way to adopt reforms within the next few years.

North Carolina, he said, would probably create a nonpartisan State tax commission at the next meeting of its Legislature in 1915. In Mississippi there was a well-defined movement for reform, and in Tennessee the Legislature has under consideration a bill providing for a State commission. In South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana little or no immediate reform is in sight.

Problem of School Taxes. Superintendent Joyner, of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, presented the report of the Conference of State Superintendents of Public Instruction on the problem of school taxes. It recommended chiefly that the State, county and local district shoulder jointly the burden of public education, on the principle that the child is the charge of the Commonwealth and county in as true a sense as it is the charge of the community in which it is born.

State and county school taxes, said Mr. Joyner, should be mandatory, and should be apportioned to the counties and districts on the basis of average school attendance, and not on the basis of school population, the common practice now. The recommendation that funds be apportioned on basis of average attendance, he said, rested on the conviction that such a procedure would place a premium on attendance and thus raise the general level of education.

Minimum Term. Without attempting to lay down a hard and fast rule, said Mr. Joyner, the conference of Superintendents agreed that in this sharing of the educational burden, the State should contribute approximately one-third of the total school expense. The funds, he recommended, should be so apportioned as to provide as far as possible a minimum seven-month term for all schools, leaving to the individual district the task of lengthening this term by means of its own appropriation.

Superintendent Sharkey, of the West Virginia Department of Public Education, read a paper on the subject, "How West Virginia Has Worked Out the Assessment Problem." The address was to have been delivered at the Thursday afternoon meeting by Frederick O. Blue, State Tax Commissioner, of West Virginia. Mr. Blue was detained in Charleston, and Mr. Sharkey, with the permission of the conference, read the paper.

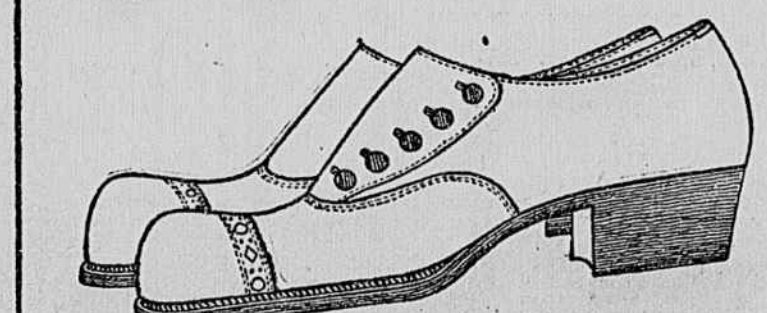
In the open discussion which followed the formal addresses, short talks were made by Lawson Purdy, president of the Department of Taxes and Assessments of New York City; H. W. Laird, of Montgomery, Ala.; T. S. Adams, of Madison, Wis.; Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, of Richmond, and Allan C. Girdwood, of Baltimore.

USE ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE

The antiseptic powder to be shaken into the shoes. If you want rest and comfort for tired, aching, swollen, sweating feet, use Allen's Foot-Ease. It removes corns and bunions of all pain and prevents blisters, sore and callous spots. Just the thing for Dancing Parties, Patent Leather shoes, or for Breaking in New Shoes. It is the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Try it today. Sold everywhere. Don't accept any substitute. For FREE trial package, address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.



A bright style in dull calf. Something especially snappy from the Crossett line. Has the ankle-hug; and the five buttons give a fine fit over the instep. Style 77.



Crossett Shoe
"MAKES LIFE'S WALK EASY"

TRADE MARK
\$4.50 to \$6.00 Everywhere.
Lewin A. Crossett, Inc., Makers, North Abington, Mass.